Hi, my name is Tracey Ho and I've been hacked on Instagram.

I was just hanging out on SFU's Surrey Campus in March, when I got an unexpected message on Instagram by an unknown account that I needed to change my email. They gave me a fake email to change my personal one with. After that I couldn't log into my Instagram account anymore, then I started panicking and freaked out. I tried logging in multiple times by Face ID and email and nothing worked. Once the hacker took over my account, they posted two posts from it advertising Bitcoin and saying they earned $10,841 from it and showing off a new vehicle for over $20,000. Some of my friends messaged me to ask about it and I told them not to follow the hacker. That user gave shit invalid reasons for nothing.

At night I searched on YouTube to get answers about getting my account back and what Bitcoin is. I even reached out to CBC Marketplace to ask them to investigate the topic, but in vain. I lost my sleep over it. I took a break from social media to calm myself down, I wrote how I felt about social media in my journal, and I deleted a bunch of personal accounts that I don't use to protect myself. This whole situation made me so furious and depressed for months. I had that account for 9 years and I put my soul into that account. I refuse to start all over again, because I worked my ass off for that account and I'm not going back to square one ever again.

I just don't understand why fake users can steal your personal accounts nowadays, it's ridiculous. I really want to sue Instagram because they are not effective and fair in dealing with malicious users. Their community guidelines don't make any sense, they don't do anything to prevent those scams and you cannot connect with them in any way, I hate it! I want justice, I want to expose hackers on any social media platforms, so that others don't fall prey to their frauds, and I will continue to fight for that. I want to raise awareness on YouTube and maybe through a Facebook group. I also don't understand why society doesn't stop the bitcoin crap. Internet piracy impacts people all over the world.

I wish I have my Instagram account back, so I am not reminded of this situation all the time. How did an unexpected message turn me from a student minding their own business into a victim of a crime?